

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. In the light of this feast day, let us pause and think a little on holiness, in particular on two of the characteristics of true holiness: it is a *gift* – it is a gift, it cannot be bought – and at the same time it is a *journey*. A *gift* and a *journey*.

First of all, a *gift*. Holiness is a gift from God which we have received with Baptism: if we let it grow, it can completely change our life (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et exsultate*, 15). Saints are not unreachable or distant heroes, but people like us, our friends, whose starting point is the same gift we have received: Baptism. Indeed, if we think about it, we have certainly met some of them, some everyday saints: some righteous person, someone who lives the Christian life seriously, with simplicity... they are those I like to call “the saints next door”, who live normally among us. Holiness is a gift offered to everyone for a happy life. And after all, when we receive a gift, what is our first reaction? It is precisely that we are happy, because it means that someone loves us; and the gift of holiness makes us happy because God loves us.

But every gift, however, must be accepted, and it carries with it the responsibility of a response, a “thank you”. But how can we say this “thank you”? It is an invitation to commit oneself so that it is not squandered. All the baptized have received the same calling to hold on to and complete in our lives the holiness we have received (cf. *Lumen gentium*, 40). This is how we come to the second point –holiness is also a *journey*, a journey to be made together, helping each other, united with those excellent companions who are the Saints.

They are our elder brothers and our sisters, on whom we can always count: the saints support us and, when we take a wrong turn along the way, with their silent presence they never fail to correct us; they are sincere friends, whom we can trust, because they desire our wellbeing. In their lives we find an example, in their prayers we receive help and friendship, and with them we are bound in a bond of brotherly love. Holiness is a journey, it is a gift. So, we can ask ourselves: do I remember having received the gift of the Holy Spirit, who calls me to holiness and helps me arrive there? Do I thank the Holy Spirit for this, for the gift of holiness? Do I feel that the saints are close to me, do I talk to them, do I turn to them? Do I know the story of some of them? It is good for us to know the lives of the saints and to be moved by their examples. And it does us a great deal of good to address them in prayer.

May Mary, Queen of all Saints, make us feel the joy of the gift received and increase in us the desire for the eternal destination

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
P. Vicar: Rev. Rafael Velázquez
P. Vicar: Rev. Paul Passant

1310 Leeward Highway, Providenciales.
P.O. Box 340, Turks & Caicos Islands.
Phone: (+1649) 941-5136

www.catholic.tc - oldpchurch@catholic.tc



XXXI SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30 pm English, Church.

Sunday: 09:00 am English, Church.
10:30 am Creole, Church.
12:30 pm Spanish, Church.

Weekdays: 05:30 pm English, B. Chapel.

Fridays: 04:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary.

05:30 pm Blue Chapel.

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

Confirmations: 22 October, 2023.

Marriage: Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.

Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.

You have heard the saying, "Do as I say and not as I do." This is basically to admit that you are a hypocrite! I am ordering you to do it and yet I don't do it myself and worse this statement justifies such hypocrisy! Well, today's Gospel comes to show you the truth. When you put rules on your spouse, children or workmates or friends, and do not fulfill them yourself then you have to admit you are behaving hypocritically. All are guilty of this some time or another. Jesus comes to expose this reality in you through this Gospel and the proof of it is that you do many things, if not all, in order to get approval. You want people to love you so you try to behave well or courteously. When I go around to various places and people greet me calling me 'Father Paul' or even 'Pere Paul', I feel good but I also feel I am someone important and that's not true. The important one is Jesus Christ. He is the Lord and our God and is the only one deserving of such acclamation and yet how you and I long for it. But what is the antidote to this moral sickness? Jesus tells us to become a servant and to humble yourself. But again this can become hypocrisy as you do not really believe that you are less than others. So what's to be done? Call to mind your sins. Call to mind the stupid mistakes that you do or have done. Call to mind your inadequacies and let them come out in the open. For this you need the grace of the Lord, otherwise, in our deep-rooted pride we would claim the credit for being so humble. The spiritual life is a real minefield and the most difficult to fight against is **PRIDE**. Some saints, if not all, actually sought humiliations by pretending to be stupid or inadequate when they were not. Let us pray for the grace of the Lord to accept the reality of our weaknesses and sins and so to become a little bit humble.

Fr. Paul



HOLY HOUR
FRIDAYS
4:00 pm—5:00pm.

POST-CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

In many cases the newly confirmed 'disappear' from our midst and so we are bringing something new to help all those just confirmed and also for those, who in the past few years have received the sacrament and want further formation.

Post-Confirmation will begin Friday November 3, in various parishioners houses. It is open to all youth who have been confirmed and wish to continue to stay close to the Lord. Different couples will host small groups of youth in their homes every Friday night to listen to the Word of God and discuss it and other themes relevant to their lives. This is a great opportunity so do not miss out. The youth who have done this all agree that it helped them through their teenage years. Contact one of the priests for further information.

Parish Events November 5-12

Sunday Holy Mass: 09:00 am.10:30am. and 12:30pm.
04:00 pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
05:00 pm Fraternite, Red Room.
05:00 pm Creole Youth Choir practice.
05:30 pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
05:00 pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday
05:30 pm D. and Mass Chapel

Tuesday
05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm First English Parish Hall
07:00pm Second English SMG
07:00pm Spanish Red Room

Wednesday
05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm Creole Bl. Sac. Chapel
07:00pm Third English S.M. Goretti
07:00pm Fourth English, Red Room
07:00pm Fifth English Blue Chapel

Thursday Feast of Lateran Basilica
05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel

Friday St. Leo the Great
04:00pm Adoration, Blue Chapel
05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

Saturday St. Martin of Tours
05:30pm Mass Church
07:00pm NCW Eucharist



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

This past week HFA celebrated All Saints Day. Every class met on November 1st, and performed a skit on the life of a saint. They reflected on our call to holiness, realizing that each of these saints were ordinary people who came to see the power of extraordinary grace. From the lives of the early Christian martyrs in Rome, to St. Gianna Molla of the twentieth century, the impossible works that become possible with God.



www.hfa.catholic.tc

SPONSORS / BENEFACTORS

We continue to look for donations and sponsors to support our **Scholarship Program** and help the school with necessary supplies. Any help God will reward you a hundred fold. If you would like and are able to help contact us at holyfamilytci@gmail.com

You can also donate from the US in the following link:

<https://www.rcan.org/mission-turks-and-caicos-islands>

Wish List

This is another way to help the missionary school or students who are in need, by donating any of the following:

- AED
- Asthma Inhalers
- Walkie-Talkie Radios
- Projectors